

## News Release

Deputy Marie Munday, Public Information Officer: 970-920-5299

[www.aspenpitkin.com](http://www.aspenpitkin.com)

June 15, 2006

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### Sheriff Declares Burn Ban

Pitkin County Sheriff Bob Braudis, in concert with the four Fire Chiefs in the county, advises all citizens and visitors that Pitkin County is at a high risk for wildland fires. The combination of high winds, low humidity and dry fuels has created a critical fire danger situation.

Therefore, fire restrictions are in effect in Pitkin County at midnight, Friday June 16, 2006.

- All fires are prohibited on private property except in gas grills, permanent charcoal grills and wood fires in permanent (not make-shift) fire pits. Some restrictions are also in effect on BLM and White River National Forest lands. Contact those agencies at the phone numbers listed below for details. Also note: similar burn bans have been issued by Eagle County and Garfield County.
- Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building. Never throw cigarette butts out of car windows.
- If you operate any internal combustion engine (such as a chainsaw or motorcycle), it must have a spark arresting device properly installed.
- Fireworks and explosives are prohibited if they require fuses or blasting caps.

For more information, contact the following:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	(970) 947-2800
White River National Forest	(970) 945-3206
Aspen Fire Protection District	(970) 925-5532
Snowmass/Wildcat Fire District	(970) 923-2212
Basalt Fire District	(970) 704-0675
Carbondale Fire District	(970) 963-2491
Pitkin County Sheriff's Office	(970) 920-5300

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## News Release

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### Burn Ban and Restrictions

The Sheriff of Pitkin County with the support from the Fire Chiefs of Aspen, Snowmass, Basalt, and Carbondale, is imposing open fire restrictions due to the existing fire hazard in Pitkin County and surrounding counties.

The health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Pitkin County may require that the use of open fires, equipment and explosives be regulated in order to prevent wildfires under existing conditions.

The Sheriff's Office has received information that the fuel moisture content of trees, grass and brush is significantly low in areas throughout Pitkin County.

The following open fire ban and restrictions shall apply to the entire geographic area of Pitkin County at all altitudes.

The fire ban and restrictions shall apply to the following activities:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using any fire to burn trash, debris, fence rows or vegetation, any campfire, warming fire, chimenea, or charcoal grill, except for those conducted in permanent fire pits or fire grates, that are located in designated campgrounds, picnic areas, or developed recreation sites.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, or building, at a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area of at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Operating a chainsaw without a U.S.D.A. or other approved spark arresting device properly installed and in effective working order, and chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounces capacity by weight, and one size O or larger round-pointed shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches. The extinguisher shall be kept with the chainsaw operator. The shovel may be kept with the fuel supplies, but readily available for use.
4. Welding or operation an acetylene or other torch with open flame; except within an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable material at least ten feet on all sides from the equipment.
5. Use of any fireworks or explosive requiring fuses or blasting caps.

The restrictions and ban stated above **exclude** the following:

1. Persons with a valid written permit from a federal agency, the Pitkin County Sheriff, or the fire district within which the fire is to occur specifically authorizing the prohibited act.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Any fires contained within a liquid fuel or gas fuel stove, fireplaces within buildings, charcoal grill fires at private residences, and fires located within permanent fire pits or fire grates to the extent those pits or grates are located in developed picnic grounds, campgrounds or recreational sites.
4. Burning of irrigation ditches located within and completely surrounded by irrigated farmlands, where such burning is necessary for crop survival, and a specific written permit has been granted for such burning, in advance, by the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office or an organized fire district encompassing the burn area.
5. Campfires or bonfires required in religious ceremonies, for which a federal agency or the County Sheriff has granted a valid written permit in advance.

Knowingly or recklessly burning during this ban is illegal and legal actions may be taken against individuals in violation under CRS 30-15-410 and Pitkin County Resolution 96-38.

The temporary restrictions and burn ban are in effect until further notice.

If you have any questions please contact your local fire district or Sheriff's Office at:

Aspen Fire Protection District	925-5532
Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District	704-0675
Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District	963-2491
Snowmass/Wildcat Fire Protection District	923-2212
Pitkin County Sheriff's Office	920-5300
BLM Office, Glenwood Springs	947-2800
White River National Forest, Glenwood Springs	945-3206